

friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

SHORT SEA SHIPPING TAX EXEMPTION ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut, introduce the Short Sea Shipping Tax Exemption Act of 2005. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage cargo shipment along America's coastlines and major waterways in a new and innovative fashion.

With our rail lines and highways at full capacity and a growing economy and population, America must find new ways to help cargo be transported. The end result being the creation of a blue water highway that has robust cargo traffic in and out of America's ports.

Currently vessels are subject to the Harbor Maintenance Tax each and every time when servicing a port. This tax precludes many vessels from going to many American ports in a sequential fashion. This legislation would eliminate that tax and thus remove a barrier to Short Sea Shipping. Without this tax in place a cargo vessel could travel from Port Canaveral in Florida, to Baltimore and then onto New York without having to pay the tax. The tax would remain for the larger, ocean-going cargo ships.

For Short Sea Shipping/Blue Water Highway to become a reality, it will take more than the removal of the Harbor Maintenance Tax for the unique vessels needed for Short Sea Shipping, but this a good first step.

IN HONOR OF THE YOUNG AMERICA FOUNDATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, ROTC programs and military recruiters have been under attack on college campuses across the nation. Some of our nation's leading institutions of higher learning have banned military recruiters from their campuses altogether. Not only does this weaken our military at a time of war, but it also denies students the right to serve their country while attending college.

During a time of war, it is imperative for America to have a military that can aggressively and effectively combat terrorism. As the father of two ROTC cadets at Francis Marion University and Clemson University, and as an ROTC graduate of Washington and Lee University who has served 31 years in the Army Reserve and South Carolina Army National Guard, I understand the importance of an educated and qualified volunteer force. Young leaders, such as my sons, Alan and Julian, should have the opportunity to both serve their country and advance their education through programs like ROTC. By banning military recruiting and ROTC programs from colleges,

access to America's talented future leaders is being denied.

Recently The Washington Times published an article that discusses ROTC and some of Young America's Foundation's activities in support of ROTC and ROTC students. The article also tells the story of Lauren Daugherty, a student at Emory University, which does not offer ROTC. Miss Daugherty commutes four times weekly to a ROTC program at Georgia Tech, receives no credit for her classes, and is harassed by students when she wears her uniform on campus.

Young America's Foundation, a nonprofit group that is also preserving and protecting Ronald Reagan's Ranch, supports our young men and women in ROTC. For years, Young America's Foundation has sponsored speakers and other programs defending ROTC. From making attacks on ROTC programs and students known to Congress to providing speakers on college campuses who defend ROTC and ROTC students, Young America's Foundation is a welcome ally in making ROTC available to college students.

A second article, from the Young America's Foundation publication *Libertas*, describes several efforts to restore student rights to participate in ROTC on campuses across the nation. At Columbia University concerned students received 65% support from a referendum circulated to reinstate the school's ROTC program. The university's senate then formed an "ROTC Task Force" made up of students and faculty to discuss the issue. Students at Yale soon followed and started a "Bring Back ROTC" campaign. Their goal is to collect more than two thousand signatures on a petition that would force discussions between the group and the administration. The Young America's Foundation works directly with student-based grass roots operations like these every year. In the past they have given organizational support for campaigns to protect ROTC, and have arranged speakers to address students on campuses about the importance of ROTC.

The courageous efforts of students who stand up against anti-military faculties and administrations represent minority rights on campuses. It is detrimental to our national security to let anti-military institutions of higher learning weaken our armed forces. I commend the efforts of the Young America's Foundation, and other student led groups who fight for a strong national defense and freedom of association.

I ask that these two articles regarding the Young America's Foundation and their support for military recruiting and ROTC be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. "Youth Group backs ROTC on campus" The Washington Times. Thursday, April 14, 2005. Price, Joyce Howard. "Students Willing to Defend Our Country Ridiculed on Many Campuses" *Libertas*, Vol. 26, No. 2, Spring 2005. Rasmussen, Scott.

(From the Washington Times, Apr. 14, 2005)

YOUTH GROUP BACKS ROTC ON CAMPUS

(By Joyce Howard Price)

A nonprofit conservative youth outreach group that owns Ronald Reagan's former California ranch is fighting what it sees as liberal efforts to abolish ROTC programs on college campuses nationwide, including one in its own backyard.

"ROTC programs on college campuses are under attack by professors and leftists, so Young America's Foundation is stepping for-

ward to honor these young men and women, who sacrifice so much to protect the freedoms we enjoy," the group stated.

YAF especially is concerned about the future of a Reserve Officer Training Corps program in its own neighborhood at the University of California at Santa Barbara, which it sees as being threatened.

Because of its concerns, YAF honored 45 cadets from that program and their instructors at a barbecue at the Reagan Ranch April 9.

"ROTC programs have been an issue since the Vietnam War, and some colleges and universities have not had them for 30 years," said Andrew Coffin, spokesman for the Reagan Ranch.

At that time, students opposed to the Vietnam War argued the presence of ROTC suggested institutional support for the conflict.

"Now because of the Iraq war, ROTC has become an issue against, and efforts are under way on some campuses by anti-military professors and students" to eliminate these programs, Mr. Coffin added.

YAF also is worried about the situation at UCSB where an effort has begun to end a military presence on campus.

"It is not fair to say the university is considering closing down the [military science] program, but it has been asked to consider closing it down" by a few critics, said UCSB spokesman Paul Desruisseaux.

He added that the university's chancellor, Henry T. Yang, has "not weighed in" with an official position.

Recent articles in the *Princetonian*, Princeton's student newspaper, indicate that a small group of students there have started a referendum drive to end its ROTC program because of discrimination concerns.

But a group striving to retain ROTC also has formed.

Among those in attendance at YAF's April 9 barbecue was Lauren Daugherty, a student at Emory University, which does not offer ROTC. Miss Daugherty said she had to commute four times weekly to an ROTC program at Georgia Tech.

When she wore her camouflage uniform on Emory's campus, Miss Daugherty told The Washington Times that she was "called a 'baby killer' and spat at."

Mr. Coffin said Miss Daugherty "received no credit whatsoever for her ROTC participation, but added that she "ultimately triumphed" because today she is a Marine Corps Officer candidate.

In the hope of invigorating ROTC, Congress passed legislation, signed by President Bush, that prohibits schools from receiving federal funds if they fail to permit ROTC units or military recruiters on their campuses.

STUDENTS WILLING TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY RIDICULED ON MANY CAMPUSES

(By Scott Rasmussen, Sarah T. Hermann, Intern Scholar)

The anti-military and anti-Vietnam agenda is returning to America's campuses. Once again, refusing students the right to participate in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program is at the top of that agenda.

Not far from the Reagan Ranch, seventeen faculty members at the University of California-Santa Barbara (UCSB) voted in support of a proposal to bar its students from seeking careers in the military. The resolution, presented on January 20 of this year by Professor Emeritus Thomas J. Scheff, claims the federal government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is grounds for banning military recruiters because it violates the First Amendment. The proposal also calls for a review of the school's ROTC program.

This is not a new phenomenon. Administrators and professors across the country use the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as a rationale to attack ROTC. Never